

Executive Registry

77-7095

5 April 1977

77-7095/1

7 Apr 77

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : Herbert E. Hetu
Assistant to the Director (Public Affairs)

SUBJECT : Media Meeting

It occurs to me we might think about meeting with selected newsmen -- including both sides of the argument -- to talk about problems like the one discussed in the attached correspondence.

If nothing else it might result in some appreciation for our problems and maybe some useable suggestions. Much would depend, of course, on how much we could tell them about our problems which might not be a great deal.

If you like the idea, we'll start thinking about people, place, time, agenda, etc.

Herbert E. Hetu

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Herb - Fine -

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NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

(FOUNDED 1902)

Executive Regis

177-6445

818 EIGHTEENTH STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

March 25, 1977

Admiral Stansfield Turner, USN
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Stan:

First my congratulations on your being named Director of the CIA. My reaction to that action, a reaction concurred in by so many others, is, simply: The President chose wisely and well.

I do have a question. First, a sentence or two of background. For the past two years, I have been privileged to meet regularly with my counterparts with AUSA, AFA, the VFW, and the National Guard Association. These gentlemen are long-time veterans of the Washington arena, are far wiser than I about life in this jungle atmosphere, and are keenly sensitive to the nuances of utterances from our leaders, both public and private.

The principal topics of discussion Monday at our monthly luncheon were your remarks on Sunday on TV. Three of the five of us had listened to what was said on the program, the other two had read at least three newsmen's versions of what was said. All were curious as to how your remarks should be interpreted, and all wondered whether they were reflective of a softer line toward the Soviets than you had been taking in some of your commentaries in Naples. Needless to say, we fervently hoped the latter conclusion was wrong.

I freely admit that we all may have been missing a basic point, namely, that this was exactly the manner in which you had hoped to leave your listeners - in confusion as to how to interpret those remarks!

Could you find time to enlighten us? That would be welcomed.

Meanwhile, welcome aboard. I sincerely hope you now will be able to keep CIA out of the headlines. It's high time that agency was provided an opportunity to go about its business without being a constant presence on Page One. I'm sure you agree.

Sincerely,

DRAFT

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Dear Vince,

Thanks for your congratulatory remarks and your kind words on my appointment as Director of Central Intelligence.

I am distressed that my remarks on "Face the Nation" gave the wrong impression. I believe I said we can and should be able to redress the erosion of the military balance toward the Soviets without a massive new military program, by putting "enough resources and enough attention, enough interest, in to this (question) to realize where we have to strengthen ourselves." I also pointed out that in addition to having a strong military we must have a strong economic position and must continue to have a strong intelligence function. I don't think, Vince, this indicates any "softness" in my views with regard to meeting the Soviet threat. I can assure you in the strongest of terms that is not the case.

I don't know that we want to stay out of the headlines but we will concentrate on having them more objectively reflect what we do - the production of first-rate intelligence for the policymakers of our country.

~~Vince~~ Thank you again for your concern and your support. I greatly appreciate your thoughtful letter.

Yours,

STANSFIELD TURNER
Admiral, U.S. Navy

Mr. V.C. Thomas, Jr.
Executive Director
Navy League of the United States
818 Eighteenth St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20006

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

DRAFT letter - Mr. V.C. Thomas, Jr. Navy League of the U.S.

FROM:

Public Affairs

EXTENSION

NO.

ER 77-6995

Executive Register

DATE

5 April 1977

77-6995/1

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.

DCI

2.

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Public Affairs

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3. For final typing

3. Please call for handcarry
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